(d) if so, the reasons for nominating non-judicial personnel in this Court of Enquiry;

(e) whether the trade unions have raised objection on appointment of non-judicial personnel; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Trade Union Leaders had raised objection on this appointment in the 29th meeting of Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines held under the Chairmanship of former Minister of Coal on 17-11-2006 at New Delhi. As stated in reply to part (c) above, it is not mandatory to have the Court of Enquiry chaired by a judicial person.

New airport in Assam

*160. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NEC is taking up the issue of setting up of a new airport within BTAD area of Assam as requested by the BTC;

(b) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Planning Commission; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The North Eastern Council has in its Annual Plan, 2007-08 included a proposal for assistance to prepare Detailed Project Reports for greenfield airports at Kokrajhar in the BTAD area. A similar proposal for Tawang and for upgradation of airports at Pasighat, Tezu, Kamalpur and Kailashahr have also been proposed.